



State of Arizona

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## Joint Statement from Governor Jan Brewer, Secretary of State Ken Bennett

### *Ruling by U.S. 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Opens Door to Voter Registration Fraud*

**PHOENIX** – "The Ninth Circuit Court Appeals has struck down a simple, common sense protection approved by Arizona voters requiring that all individuals provide evidence of U.S. citizenship prior to registering to vote. This decision is an outrage and a slap in the face to all Arizonans who care about the integrity of their elections.

"Arizona voters approved this critical election-security requirement in 2004. We have been vigorously defending its constitutionality and the will of Arizona voters. This law has previously been upheld at every level and by every court, including the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, despite numerous lawsuits and challenges filed by activist groups.

"Today's decision should not impact the election on Tuesday, but could impact our registration requirements and the integrity of local elections being conducted beginning as early as this spring, as well as statewide elections in 2012.

"That simply cannot be tolerated. Arizona voters have made their will crystal clear – non-citizens do not have the right to vote. We will continue to pursue any and all legal remedies to prevent fraudulent voter registration in the State of Arizona, as well as the right of our state citizens to craft appropriate protections."

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